

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /144 W

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R 231005 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 754

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0570

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR SO

SUBJ: SOMALI FRENCH RELATIONS

REF: MOGADISCIO 0463

1. JACQUES FOCCART MADE BRIEF VISIT (HIS FIRST) TO MOGADISCIO APRIL 17-19. HE WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT AND MET WITH TOP SOMALI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SIAD. ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR DJIBOUTI, FOCCART MADE NICE NOISES ABOUT SOMALI GOVERNMENT' S EFFORTS TO PUSH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT -- ALL OF WHICH PROMINENTLY REPORTED BY LOCAL PRESS.

2. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR, SOMALIS PUSHED FOCCART FOR POMPIDOU VISIT IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. FOCCART REPLIED THAT VISIT COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED BEFORE 1975. FOCCART INVITED SIAD TO VISIT PARIS IN 1974, WHICH HE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE. OTHERWISE, CONVERSATIONS REPORTEDLY HAD LITTLE SUBSTANCE. (NO INDICATION THAT EITHER SIDE RAISED FTAL.)

3. HOWEVER, SOMALIS PRESSED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SPECIFICALLY FOR ROADS AND ALSO AN IRRIGATION PROJECT ON JUBA RIVER (ABOVE FANOLE DAM SITE). FOCCART REPORTEDLY MADE NO COMMITMENTS BUT PROMISED CONSIDERATION.

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RM COMMENT: WITH SOMALIS VOCIFEROUSLY HAMMERING AWAY FOR SELF- DETERMINATION (INDEPENDENCE?) OF DJIBOUTI IN AFRICAN FORUMS, THEIR COZYING UP TO FRENCH AND PARTICULARLY SOMEBODY LIKE FOCCART APPEARS PARADOXICAL, IF NOT SHAMELESS. IT INDICATES IF SUCH WERE NECESSARY THEIR BASIC SATISFACTION WITH STATUS QUO, THEIR PRINCIPAL FEAR BEING THAT FRANCE MIGHT TURN OVER DJIBOUTI TO ETHIOPIA. FOCCART' S VISIT TO MOGADISCIO WAS ALSO ONE MORE PLOY IN SOMALIA' S CURRENT DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST ETHIOPIA PREPARATORY TO OAU MEETING.
CROMWELL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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